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ACTION INR-00

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	EB-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
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R 151417Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ISA/DSAA//
DIA WASHDC//DC-4A//
CIA WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
FRG COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
SACEUR SHAPE BE//PAA//
USMISSION USNATO
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5/POLAD/ECPA//
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//CCH
CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/AGS, INR/EUC, INR/P

VIENNA FOR CSBM, CSCE, PAA

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: POWELL TERRORISM U.S.-MEPP VENEZUELA EU-
U.S.;BERLIN

- A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY
- B. (MEPP) POWELL MISSION / CURRENT CRISIS
- C. (TERRORISM) U.S. ANTI-TERROR POLICY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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- D. (U.S.-MEPP) PRESIDENT BUSH'S POLICY
- E. (VENEZUELA) CHAVEZ RETURNS
- F. (EU-U.S.) RELATIONS

A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY

HEADLINES

CDU DISAPPOINTED AT STOIBER BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF SELF-ASSURANCE
(FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)

FIRST MEETING WITH ARAFAT DID NOT PRODUCE RESULTS (SUEDEDEUTSCHE
ZEITUNG)

MUENTEFERING WAS ALLEGEDLY INFORMED EARLY ON LIST OF DONORS (DIE
WELT)

POWELL PRAISES "USEFUL" MEETING (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU)

DJERBA ATTACK: TEN GERMANS DIED (TAGESSPIEGEL)

POWELL COMMUTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST (BERLINER ZEITUNG)

EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON COLIN POWELL'S MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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AND ON THE ATTACK AGAINST A SYNAGOGUE IN DJERBA WHICH KILLED AT
LEAST TEN GERMANS. ZDF-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE AND ARD-
TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH A STORY ON THE
ATTACK IN DJERBA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2002

HEADLINES

SUICIDE BOMBING IN JERUSALEM MAKES POWELL MISSION MORE DIFFICULT
(FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU)

SIX GERMANS KILLED IN DJERBA EXPLOSION (DIE WELT, TAGESSPIEGEL)

SHARON STAYS DETERMINED (BERLINER ZEITUNG)

EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON SPD FINANCE SCANDAL IN COLOGNE, THE STATUS
OF GERMAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN
VENEZUELA, AND THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ZDF-TV'S
EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE AND ARD-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST
TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH A STORY ON THE ATTACK IN DJERBA.

B. (MEPP) POWELL MISSION / CURRENT CRISIS

1. R. KASPAR COMMENTED ON REGIONAL RADIO STATION WESTDEUTSCHER
RUNDPUNK OF COLOGNE (4/12):

"IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WANTS TO END THE VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MUST DEMAND ISRAEL'S
WITHDRAWAL AND A CEASE-FIRE UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF THE UN CHARTER.
SUCH A MOVE WOULD MEAN THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS
WILLING TO ACHIEVE ITS DEMANDS WITH THE HELP OF SANCTIONS OR A
MILITARY OPERATION IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. THIS TOOL WAS USED
AFTER THE IRAQI INVASION OF KUWAIT. HOWEVER, SUCH A STEP IS TABOO
IN WASHINGTON AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND THE UNITED STATES IS A
VETO POWER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ALL OF THIS MEANS THAT THE
ONLY SUPERPOWER IS NOT WILLING TO ENFORCE AN END TO VIOLENCE IN
THIS CASE."

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2. "INCHING FORWARD"

CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (4/15) NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL:

"ARAFAT'S HALF-HEARTED AND DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TERROR AGAINST CIVILIANS IS UNACCEPTABLE MAY BE ENOUGH TO GET HIM A MEETING WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE POWELL. ISRAEL, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE IMPRESSED AS LONG AS THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT NEW BOMBINGS WILL NOT OCCUR. IF ARAFAT HAD TO PROMISE SUCH A THING IN ARABIC, HIS TIME AS PALESTINIAN LEADER AND FAVORITE MARTYR WOULD BE OVER. IF POWELL IS MAKING PROGRESS AT ALL, IT CAN ONLY BE MEASURED IN INCHES. ISRAEL CANNOT CONTINUE WAGING THIS WAR FOR LONG WITHOUT U.S. ASSISTANCE, AND WASHINGTON IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON ITSELF BECAUSE OF ITS WAR PLANS AGAINST IRAQ. HOPELESS IDEALISTS MAY BE MAKING PEACE PLANS RIGHT NOW, BUT REALISTS CAN ONLY HOPE FOR A CEASE-FIRE."

3. "POWERLESS OR SUPERPOWER"

MICHAEL STUERMER OBSERVED IN AN EDITORIAL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER DIE WELT OF BERLIN (4/15):

"THE ONLY THING THE WORLD CAN HANDLE LESS WELL THAN U.S. SUPERPOWER IS U.S. POWERLESSNESS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MORE IS AT STAKE THAN PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND:

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R 151417Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ISA/DSAA//
DIA WASHDC//DC-4A//
CIA WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
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STABILITY IN THE REGION, AVOIDING THE 'CLASH OF CULTURES,' AND
THE AFFLUENCE AND WELL-BEING OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD.
POWELL'S MISSION COMES LATE, MORE AN EXPRESSION OF DESPAIR THAN
OF IMPERIAL SELF-CONFIDENCE. WITHOUT A MODUS VIVENDI, THE WAR
WILL CONTINUE, A WAR THAT ISRAEL CANNOT LOSE AND ARAFAT CANNOT
WIN. THE LACK OF A SOLUTION WILL ALSO PUT A STOP TO THE UNITED
STATES' WAR ON TERRORISM. THE UNITED STATES HAS TO DEMONSTRATE
ITS ABILITY TO EMBRACE A VISION AND PURSUE IT WITH
DETERMINATION.. WASHINGTON KNOWS WHAT IS ALSO KNOWN IN JERUSALEM
AND RAMALLAH: THERE IS NO PEACE WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES."

4. "POWELL UNDER PRESSURE"

LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (4/15) MAINTAINED IN AN
EDITORIAL:

"POWELL IS MANEUVERING ON THIN ICE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
SHARON IS SECRETLY HOPING THAT POWELL'S MISSION WILL FAIL, GIVING
HIM A REASON TO GO AFTER ARAFAT EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVELY. ARAFAT,
ON THE OTHER HAND, MAY KEEP INVOKING HIS WILL TO PEACE, BUT HE IS
BASICALLY INCAPABLE OF GOING AFTER THE MILITANTS NOW THAT THE
PALESTINIAN AUTONOMOUS AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED.. EVEN IF
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ARAFAT IS REALLY INTERESTED IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CHANCE
POWELL IS OFFERING HIM, A NEW BOMBING ATTACK WILL SUFFICE TO
DESTROY ALL PROGRESS. IN ANY CASE, POWELL'S PERSEVERANCE IS NOT
ENOUGH TO GET EVERYONE TO MOVE BEYOND VIOLENCE. HE IS CERTAINLY
GIVING IT HIS BEST SHOT, AND HE IS EVEN PUTTING HIS REPUTATION AT

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RISK. NEVERTHELESS, SUCCESS IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES' PUTTING ITS FOOT DOWN AND A CONCRETE PEACE PLAN."

5. "POWELL MUST PROVE HIS NEUTRALITY"

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL BACKFISCH POINTED OUT IN AN EDITORIAL IN BUSINESS DAILY HANDELSBLATT OF DUESSELDORF (4/15):

"THE UNITED STATES IS BEST ABLE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND ITS ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER. THE EUROPEAN UNION REMAINS A DIPLOMATIC LIGHTWEIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, THE U.S. ROLE AS MEDIATOR HAS A CATCH, BECAUSE THE COUNTRY IS BOTH GO-BETWEEN AND ISRAEL'S MOST LOYAL ALLY. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS CREDIBILITY, POWELL MUST PAY GREAT ATTENTION TO MAINTAINING HIS NEUTRALITY. WASHINGTON CAN NO LONGER AFFORD AN 'ASYMMETRICAL' POSITION. POWELL'S REPUTATION AS AN HONEST BROKER WILL DEPEND ON HIS ABILITY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES, IF NEEDED. AS IMPORTANT AS A CEASE-FIRE MAY BE, IT CANNOT BE THE ONLY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. POWELL MUST ALSO URGE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. WITHOUT A JUST SOLUTION FOR THE IMPOVERISHED POPULATION IN THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF MILITARY OFFENSIVE AND TERROR BOMBINGS CANNOT BE BROKEN."

C. (TERRORISM) U.S. ANTI-TERROR POLICY

1. "BUSH'S TUNNEL VISION"

MARTIN WINTER STATED IN AN EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (4/15):

"SEVERAL THINGS ARE GOING WRONG IN THE U.S. FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, AND THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS

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DEVELOPMENT. THE COUNTRY DREW THE WRONG CONCLUSION FROM ITS DOUBLE-ROLE AS VICTIM AND ONLY REMAINING SUPERPOWER -- THAT IT IS NOT ONLY STRONG BUT ALSO HAS THE RIGHT TO DICTATE THE CONDITIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. INSTEAD OF RELYING ON A GENUINE INTERNATIONAL COALITION, AS THE COUNTRY DID IMMEDIATELY AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, THE UNITED STATES HAS INCREASINGLY 'AMERICANIZED' THE CONFLICT. THIS MAY APPEAL TO DOMESTIC VOTERS, BUT IT DOES MORE POLITICAL HARM THAN GOOD. AT A TIME WHEN IT IS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL NETWORK CAPABLE OF FIGHTING VIOLENT FUNDAMENTALISM, THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE IS A FOREIGN POLICY DILETTANTE WHO IS CONFUSING AGGRESSIVE RHETORIC WITH POLITICS AND POPULARITY WITH SUCCESS... INFLUENTIAL AND INTELLECTUALLY BRILLIANT CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES STAND BEHIND BUSH'S SIMPLE PATRIOTIC RHETORIC, EAGER TO FREE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE RESTRICTIONS OF MULTILATERALISM."

D. (U.S.-MEPP) PRESIDENT BUSH'S POLICY

1. THE DEPENDENT GOLIATH"

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WOLFGANG KOYDL FILED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FOR CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (4/15):

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	DSCC-00	DRL-02	SAS-00	/004W			

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R 151417Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7400
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ISA/DSAA//
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DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
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"THE MIDDLE EAST, MORE THAN ANY OTHER REGION IS EXEMPLIFYING

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MORE CLEARLY THE HELPLESSNESS, EVEN POWERLESSNESS OF THE ONLY REMAINING SUPERPOWER.. THE REAL REASONS FOR THE U.S. WEAKNESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE A DEEPER ORIGIN. EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THAT ONLY THE UNITED STATES IS ABLE TO FORCE A SOLUTION UPON ISRAELIS AND ARABS. BUT ONE THING IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED: THE UNITED STATES HAS DIFFICULTIES DOING THIS JOB, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT STAND ABOVE THE PROBLEM, RATHER IT IS PART OF THE PROBLEM. THE UNITED STATES IS INSEPARABLY INVOLVED IN THE REGION TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT IS UNABLE TO ACT AS AN INDEPENDENT PEACEBROKER..

"THE UNITED STATES WANTS A CEASE-FIRE IN PALESTINE, BECAUSE THE VIOLENCE IN THE HOLY LAND IS MIXING UP THE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT PLANS OF PRESIDENT BUSH, WHO WANTS TO GIVE EVERYTHING ITS RIGHT PLACE. THE OIL PRICE IS RISING, THE PLANS FOR AN ATTACK ON IRAQ HAVE GOT BOGGED DOWN AND -- WHAT IS THE WORST OF ALL -- THE POPULARITY RATINGS OF THE ANTI-TERROR PRESIDENT ARE DECLINING. BUT NEITHER ARAFAT NOR SHARON GIVE A DAMN ABOUT BUSH'S PROBLEMS. THUS FAR, THEY HAVE NOT HAD ANY INTEREST IN A CEASE-FIRE SINCE THEIR POPULARITY INCREASES WITH EVERY BOMB, WITH EVERY MISSILE..

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"OF COURSE, THE UNITED STATES IS ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY, MILITARILY, AND DIPLOMATICALLY STRONGER THAN THE TWO OPPONENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT THE U.S. GIANT IS VULNERABLE. THE KEY WORDS ARE POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND DEPENDENCY ON ENERGY SUPPLIES.. GEORGE W. BUSH IS INTERESTED ONLY ONE THING: UNLIKE HIS UNFORTUNATE FATHER, HE WANTS TO BE RE-ELECTED. HE SUBJECTS ALMOST EVERYTHING TO THIS GOAL AND THAT IS WHY HE SENT HIS SECRETARY OF STATE POWELL TO THE CRISIS REGION ONLY AFTER THE INDEX ON WALL STREET DROPPED AND FUEL PRICES WERE RISING, BECAUSE THEY JEOPARDIZED THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ON WHICH HIS RE-ELECTION DEPENDS..

"BUT NOW BUSH HAS ARRIVED IN THE REGION WHERE HE DID NOT WANT TO GO: THE MIDEAST MINEFIELD, WHERE ANY INCONSIDERATE ACTIVITY CAN CAUSE A DETONATION THAT COULD BE A DANGER FOR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. FOR THE REGION ITSELF, THIS IS NO GOOD NEWS. THE HAWKS IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ARE NOW WAITING WHETHER TO SEE POWELL'S MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL FAIL. THEN THEY CAN PRESENT THEIR BOSS WITH AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL: ARAB TERRORISTS RANGING FROM SADDAM HUSSEIN TO YASSER ARAFAT WILL BE REMOVED, IF NECESSARY, BY FORCE AND, IF NECESSARY, WITHOUT ALLIES.."

E. (VENEZUELA) CHAVEZ RETURNS

1. "COUP AND COUNTER COUP"

CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (4/15) NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL:

"ONLY A FEW PEOPLE KNOW WHERE THE CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY IS HEADING FOR. ENTREPRENEUR PEDRO CARMONA IS A MAN OF THE OLIGARCHY. HE DID NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL LEGITIMACY AND HIS FIRST MOVE IN OFFICE WAS TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT, THE HIGHEST COURT, AND

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OTHER BASTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME. THE UNITED STATES, TOO,
WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GET RID OF SPOILSPORT CHAVEZ, SINCE HE IS
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JEOPARDIZING U.S. INTERESTS IN VENEZUELA, THE FOURTH-LARGEST OIL
PRODUCER IN THE WORLD. THE 18 LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE RIO
GROUP CONDEMNED THE COUP AS A 'BREACH OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
ORDER,' AND CAUDILLO CHAVEZ WAS CALLED BACK AS SAVIOR. UNDER
CHAVEZ, THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER WAS A RELATIVE TERM ANYWAY, BUT
IN THE SUMMER OF 2000 THE VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOT FOR HIM BEFORE
THEY REALIZED THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS AUTHORITARIAN REVOLUTION.

"FOR THE TIME BEING, THE ARMED FORCES SEEM TO BE THE ONLY
INSTITUTION THAT IS ABLE TO KEEP THE MESSED-UP SITUATION UNDER
CONTROL, BUT THEY ARE ALSO DANGEROUSLY POLARIZED. FOR THE TIME
BEING, IT WILL DEPEND ON THEM TO SLOW DOWN THE DYNAMICS OF ANGER
AND REVENGE. THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION: ELECTIONS."

2. "CHAVEZ GOES, CHAVEZ RETURNS"

HERO BUSS NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER DIE WELT OF
BERLIN (4/15):

"HUGO CHAVEZ -- A SCATTERBRAIN WHO POLARIZES VENEZUELA, IS
DETRIMENTAL TO THE ECONOMY, RESPECTS SADDAM HUSSEIN AND FIDEL
CASTRO -- WAS BEING OUSTED BY AN ALLIANCE OF COMPANY OWNERS AND
TRADE UNIONS. BUT TWO DAYS LATER HE IS BACK IN HIS SADDLE AT THE
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THANKS TO VIOLENT FOLLOWERS, WHO ARE

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R 151417Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7401
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USOSCE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5/POLAD/ECPA//
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//CCH
CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
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ORGANIZED IN THE SLUMS LIKE CUBAN DEFENSE COMMITTEES, THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WHICH DOES NOT WANT TO ACCEPT A DE-FACTO GOVERNMENT IN VENEZUELA, AND THANKS TO THE HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS WHO WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GET RID OF CHAVEZ, BUT, PLEASE, WITHOUT ANY RISKS FOR THEIR OWN CAREERS.. VENEZUELA IS HEADING FOR DIFFICULT TIMES. THE POLITICAL DIVISION HAS NOW DEEPENED, AND NOT A SINGLE PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED IN THE PAST FOUR DAYS IN CARACAS. IT IS RIGHT THAT CHAVEZ PROMISED A POLICY OF RECONCILIATION; BUT WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IS SOMETHING WE CANNOT IMAGINE."

3. "SOAP OPERA IN VENEZUELA"

LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (4/15) OPINED:

"THE 'SOAP OPERA' FROM VENEZUELA SEES -- FOR THE TIME BEING -- FRIDAY'S LOSER AS THE WINNER. BUT THE PUBLIC WILL REMEMBER THE TRAGIC ARIA OF THE RULE OF LAW IN SOUTH AMERICA.. THE REINSTALLED PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNABLE TO KEEP TO HIS PROMISES. HE HIMSELF IS TOO SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE TEMPTATIONS OF POWER AND THE RESISTANCE OF THE 'ESTABLISHMENT,' WHICH WAS DEFEATED THIS TIME, IS STILL TOO STRONG. BUT THE NEXT ACT IN THIS

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SOAP OPERA HAS CERTAINLY BEEN WRITTEN. THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES, BY IGNORING CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, ALMOST OPENLY APPLAUDED THE SHORT-TERM PUTSCHIST,

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SHOWS THAT EVEN IF CHAVEZ WERE A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, HE WOULD HARDLY HAVE A CHANCE. FOR WASHINGTON, THE BEST SOLUTION IS AN ENTREPRENEUR IN POWER. AND THEN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT SO IMPORTANT."

4. "A COUP LIKE IN AN OPERA"

JOSEF ABAFFY ARGUED IN AN EDITORIAL IN BUSINESS DAILY HANDELSBLATT OF DUESSELDORF (4/15):

"WITH ITS OPERA REVOLUTION, VENEZUELA IS NOT IN BAD COMPANY. BEFORE THE END OF LAST YEAR, ARGENTINA SAW FIVE PRESIDENTS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA ONLY HAD FOUR IN THREE DAYS DOES NOT SPEAK FOR POLITICAL STABILITY. ARGENTINA, PERU, COLOMBIA, AND NOW VENEZUELA, AND TOMORROW MAYBE BRAZIL -- THE LIST OF UNSTABLE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA IS LONG. IT IS THEIR MAIN PROBLEM THAT THE PAST YEARS CREATED CONSIDERABLE LOSSES, BE IT BECAUSE OF A MISGUIDED MONETARY OR ECONOMIC POLICY, OR BE IT A LACK OF ZEAL TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS. AS LONG AS THESE NATIONS DO NOT DO THEIR HOMEWORK, THEY WILL REMAIN UNSTABLE."

F. (EU-U.S.) RELATIONS

1. "HEADS UP, EUROPE!"

JOCHEN BUCHSTEINER WROTE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SONNTAGSZEITUNG (4/14):

"THE SITUATION IN EUROPE IS GETTING UNCOMFORTABLE. THE SELF-ASSERTIVE DESIRE TO HAVE A SAY IN GLOBAL POLICY EVENTS IS DWINDLING. WHAT HAS SURFACED NOT ONLY SINCE SEPTEMBER 11 IS NOW COMING TO THE FORE UNDER THE SCRUTINY THAT IS SHOWN TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST. THE 'OLD WORLD' HAS LOST INFLUENCE TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT IT IS HARDLY BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY ANY MORE. PEOPLE ARE

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LAUGHING AT EUROPE. IN PART EUROPE ITSELF IS TO BLAME FOR THIS POLITICAL CUTTING-DOWN. DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE EUROPEANS HAVE ALMOST DELIBERATELY EXPOSED THEMSELVES TO RIDICULE RANGING FROM SOLANA'S FAILED MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE POLYPHONE DEBATE IN BRUSSELS OVER [STEEL] SANCTIONS.. HOWEVER, THE SNIDE REMARKS WE SOMETIMES HEAR FROM THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE MIDDLE EAST IS INVOLVED IS QUESTIONABLE. WE NEED NOT POINT TO THE MISSION OF THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE TO SEE THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS NOT ACTING IN A MORE FARSIGHTED WAY.. IT IS ALMOST A NATURAL LAW THAT CRITICISM FROM THE UNITED STATES CREATES SELF DOUBTS AMONG THE EUROPEANS.. NEVERTHELESS, THE SELF-CERTAINTY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS DECLARED ITS OWN POLICY SINCE SEPTEMBER 11 SACROSANCT -- AND RIVALING CONCEPTS TO BE UNTIMELY -- SHOULD WORRY EUROPE..

"THE FUTURE TREATMENT OF SADDAM IS ONLY ONE VERY SERIOUS EXAMPLE OF A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S. REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT SHOWS THAT OTHER CONFLICTS CAN FOLLOW.. THE TRAGEDY OF SEPTEMBER 11 CREATED AN ALMOST BIBLICAL

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UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE AMERICANS OF BEING THE CHOSEN PEOPLE..

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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00
EUR-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 LAB-01 VCE-00 DCP-01
SCT-00 TEST-00 USIE-00 IIP-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 SAS-00
/004W

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R 151417Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ISA/DSAA//
DIA WASHDC//DC-4A//
CIA WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
FRG COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
SACEUR SHAPE BE//PAA//
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USOSCE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5/POLAD/ECPA//
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//CCH
CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/AGS, INR/EUC, INR/P

VIENNA FOR CSBM, CSCE, PAA

"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: POWELL TERRORISM U.S.-MEPP VENEZUELA EU-
U.S.;BERLIN

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BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD, HAS NOW BEEN PUT ON TRIAL, IT FEELS AUTHORIZED TO DETERMINE THE RULES OF THE GAME FOR A NEW ERA ON ITS OWN. EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD ONLY SERVE AS A DESIRABLE BUT NOT NECESSARY FRAMEWORK FOR ITS LEGITIMACY..

"TO ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PROBABLY A BETTER VIEW ON DEVELOPMENTS IS PART OF THE NICE TRADITIONS IN EUROPE, BUT TO IGNORE THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD BE WRONG LEADS TO GIVING UP HOPE. THE FACT THAT IT IS THE BUSH'S ADMINISTRATIONS RHETORIC, NOT ITS POLICY THAT IS SO IRRITATING, IS LITTLE CONSOLATION. ANY POLICIES HAVE THEIR WEAKNESSES, INCLUDING THE ONE FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT IS WHY A GOOD FEELING CAN COME BACK ONLY IF EUROPE CAN REASSERT ITS CORRECTIVE INFLUENCE.."

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